

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MONDAY, MAY 20, 2013
6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President McCarthy called the Public Session to order at 6:52 p.m.

The following members were present:

130th District: Susan Brannelly, Steven Stafstrom
132nd District: John Olson, M. Evette Brantley
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy
134th District: Michelle Lyons
136th District: Carlos Silva, Angel dePara
137th District: Lydia Martinez, Manuel Ayala
138th District: Michael Marella, Jr.
139th District: Andre Baker

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, MAY 20, 2013 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

Conrad DeJesus
277 Cottage Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Public Safety.

Mr. DeJesus came forward and addressed the Council Members about public safety. He said that Bridgeport ranks 94 out of the top 100 most dangerous cities in the U.S. He then listed the various districts and said that today was a day of hope for the residents. He pointed out that in a community, people work with one another. The time has come where the safety in the community must be taken seriously. Whether these are acts of crime or acts of willful disobedience, it must be addressed. Not only the school zone safety should be considered, but the safety of all the areas of Bridgeport. It is time to bring forth new hope. Together, the residents can make this the greatest city the U.S. has ever seen. He said it was time for peace and that peace should be made known to the world.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Governance/Charter Violations.

Mr. John Marshal Lee came forward to address the Council. He then said that he had some questions about the financial reports. He called the City Clerk's office and found out that the most recent financial report that was available was the February Finance report, which is a violation of the Charter.

Mr. Lee pointed out that the public schools, which uses the same MUNIS system had the April budget published already out along with the projections for June. Mr. Lee said that last week the Council had voted on the overall City budget and noted that each of the positions had a separate line for benefits. He then gave the details of the various figures that were noted in the budget.

Mr. Lee then spoke about the Fire Department retirement transfer that had just been discussed in the Contracts Committee.

Council President McCarthy then asked if there was anyone else who wished to address the Council at this time.

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Various Issues.

Mr. Cecil Young came forward and said that he had spoken to the Council about various issues previously. He also said that there was a letter on a website [www.cecilyoung.com] dated March 16th about this issue. He said that he had spoken to the Labor Board about being fired. Mr. Young then held up a display board with documents that he claimed were letters from his doctors. He said that he was working with the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's office to deal with this issue. He then requested that the City sue him or lock him up. He then said that the Council Members should be ashamed for not addressing this issue.

Council President McCarthy then asked if there was anyone else who wished to address the Council at this time. No one came forward, hearing none, Council President McCarthy closed the Public Speaking Session at 6:54 p.m.

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2013
7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Finch called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

PRAYER

Reverend John Olson led those present in a short prayer. Council President McCarthy asked for a moment of silence for the recent sudden death of Police Officer Webb's daughter, Tiarra, and in respect for Council Member Martinez's aunt who also recently passed away.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Stafstrom then led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayoral Proclamation: Recognizing the Columbus School TAG Program Words on Wheels 2013 Student Poetry Project.

City Council Citation: Recognizing the Columbus School TAG Program Words on Wheels 2013 Student Poetry Project.

Mayor Finch requested that Professor Ron Rapice and his students come forward to be presented with certificates of recognition for the Words on Wheels program. With so many people riding the buses, many people have seen the students' work. Mayor Finch said that Professor Rapice was an attorney and then came back to work with the Bridgeport students.

Mayor Finch and Council President McCarthy then presented Professor Rapice with a Mayoral Proclamation and a Council Citation recognizing his contributions to this program.

Professor Rapice said that there had been many different partnerships and this year there had been over 600 students participating in the program. Professor Rapice then displayed a "Words on Wheels" poster that he presented to the Mayor.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Susan Brannelly, Steven Stafstrom
131st District: Jack Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: John Olson, M. Evette Brantley
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Howard Austin
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Warren Blunt
136th District: Carlos Silva, Angel dePara
137th District: Lydia Martinez, Manuel Ayala
138th District: Richard Paoletto, Michael Marella, Jr.
139th District: Andre Baker

A quorum was present.

47-12 Public Hearing re: Request for the Discontinuance of a Portion of Bank Street between Main Street and the Easement known as Middle Street.

Mayor Finch called the public hearing to order at 7:24 p.m. He asked if there was anyone else who wished to address the Council at this time. No one came forward. Mayor Finch asked if there was anyone else who wished to address the Council at this time. Hearing none, Mayor Finch closed the public hearing regarding the Request for the Discontinuance of a Portion of Bank Street between Main Street and the Easement known as Middle Street at 7:25 p.m.

56-12 Public Hearing re: Removal of a Utility Easement along the Former Riparian Street.

Mayor Finch called the public hearing to order at 7:25 p.m. He asked if there was anyone else who wished to address the Council at this time. No one came forward. Mayor Finch asked if there was anyone else who wished to address the Council at this time. Hearing none, Mayor Finch closed the public hearing regarding the Removal of a Utility Easement along the Former Riparian Street at 7:26 p.m.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: April 15, 2013.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 15, 2013 CITY COUNCIL MINUTES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 15, 2013 CITY COUNCIL MINUTES AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

**** Council President McCarthy moved that the following items be referred to Committee:**

77-12 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: RESCINDING RESOLUTION #26-05 AUTHORIZING THE SELL OF FIVE (5) CITY-OWNED PARCELS TO THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF EASTERN FAIRFIELD COUNTY, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

78-12 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE MUNICIPAL SUSPENSE TAX BOOK, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

79-12 COMMUNICATION FROM TREASURER RE: PROPOSED ATM SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH WEBSTER BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR TWO (2) ATM MACHINES ON THE PREMISES OF 999 BROAD STREET AND 45 LYON TERRACE, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

80-12 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH VILMARIE REYES V. CITY OF BRIDGEPORT AND ANGEL RODRIGUEZ, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

81-12 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE SOUTH AVENUE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND AUTHORIZING THE BRIDGEPORT PORT AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE, INCLUDING BY EMINENT DOMAIN, CERTAIN REAL PROPERTIES WITHIN THE PLAN AREA, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

82-12 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE DONATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS 316 CENTRAL AVENUE, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

83-12 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF 1216 STRATFORD AVENUE, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

84-12 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE DONATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS 1196 STRATFORD AVENUE, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

85-12 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION CONCERNING DISPOSITION OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND REQUEST ORDERING A PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO THE SAME, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

**** Council Member Brantley moved to approve the following agenda items:**

***47-12 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REQUEST FOR THE DISCONTINUANCE OF A PORTION OF BANK STREET BETWEEN MAIN STREET AND THE EASEMENT KNOWN AS MIDDLE STREET.**

***52-12 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM MARSHALL (D) TO THE FIRE COMMISSION.**

***56-12 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING THE REMOVAL OF A UTILITY EASEMENT ALONG THE FORMER RIPARIAN STREET.**

***61-12 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: (REF. #35-11) MAIN STREET TRAFFIC SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS – UTILIZING FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER THE URBAN COMPONENT OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM: STATE PROJECT NO. 15-360, FEDERAL-AID PROJECT NO. 1015(126).**

***62-12 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
REPORT RE: (REF. #36-11) IRANISTAN AVENUE SIDEWALK
REPLACEMENT – UTILIZING FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER THE URBAN
COMPONENT OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM:
STATE PROJECT NO. 15-358, FEDERAL-AID PROJECT NO. 1015(124).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER STAFSTROM SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE LISTED AGENDA ITEMS PASSED
UNANIMOUSLY.**

***59-12 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Application for
Waiver to Extend Driveway Width Located at 4200 Park Avenue – Jewish Home Fairfield
County Project.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO TABLE AND SEND BACK TO
COMMITTEE - AGENDA ITEM 59-12 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPLICATION FOR WAIVER TO EXTEND DRIVEWAY
WIDTH LOCATED AT 4200 PARK AVENUE – JEWISH HOME FAIRFIELD COUNTY
PROJECT BACK TO COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***37-12 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report
re: Consolidated Plan 2013-2018 PY 39 Annual Action Plan: Community Development
Block Grant Program (CDBG), Homeless Emergency Solutions Grant Program (HESG),
HOME Investment Partnership Program, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS
Program (HOPWA), referred to Economic and Community Development and
Environment Committee.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 37-12 ECONOMIC
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT
RE: CONSOLIDATED PLAN 2013-2018 PY 39 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN:
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG), HOMELESS
EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM (HESG), HOME INVESTMENT
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM, HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH
AIDS PROGRAM (HOPWA), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

Mayor Finch said that it is a requirement of HUD that each individual must state abstain from the vote for record if they have any connection with any organization receiving CDBG funding.

Council Member Brannelly – abstaining from any vote involving the Frank Habinsky Food Pantry or the Down Town Cabaret.

Council Member Stafstrom - abstaining from any vote involving the YMCA and the Health Community Center.

Council Member Taylor-Moye - abstaining from any vote involving the Bridgeport Housing Authority After school program, RYSAP, and Americorps.

Council Member Olson - abstaining from any vote involving the YMCA.

Council Member Brantley – abstaining from any vote involving the Bridgeport Tabernacle.

Council President McCarthy – abstaining from any vote involving the United Way, and Alpha Services.

Council Member Austin - abstaining from any vote involving ABCD.

Council Member Martinez - abstaining from any vote involving ABCD, GBAT and Optimum Health Care.

Council Member Brantley thanked everyone for the hard work on the ECDCE budget. It was a pleasure working with everyone.

Mayor Finch reminded that the CBGD program was developed by Richard Nixon. He said that since then, the government had consistently cut the grants. The National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors are fighting day in and out to maintain the level of funding. When people ask why the City is involved in the various municipal organizations it is because it allows the cities allow to fight for Federal funding.

Council Member Martinez said thank you to all the Committee members and the staff during the CDBG process. Bridgeport has a lot of needs. Council Member Martinez went on to list some of the needs that were on the various applications.

Mayor Finch then thanked Ms. Alanna Kabel and Mr. Tyler Fairbank for all their assistance during the process.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 37-12 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: CONSOLIDATED PLAN 2013-2018 PY 39 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG), HOMELESS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM (HESG), HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM, HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS PROGRAM**

(HOPWA), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council President McCarthy announced that Council Member Bonney had a personnel issue, and Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia had a health issue.

Tomorrow is the wake for Police Officer Webb's daughter.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD ITEM 63-12 PROPOSED RESOLUTION CONCERNING BRIDGEPORT FIREFIGHTERS PENSION PLAN B TO AGENDA.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD ITEM 63-12 PROPOSED RESOLUTION CONCERNING BRIDGEPORT FIREFIGHTERS PENSION PLAN B TO AGENDA PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

63-12 Proposed Resolution concerning Bridgeport Firefighters Pension Plan B.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**

Council Member Olson said that he would appreciate an explanation from Atty. Anastasi. Atty. Anastasi then went forward to give an overview of the resolution. He said that the Police Commission had already approved the transfer of the funds. Atty. Anastasi said that the City reviews the actuary figures annually. He then reviewed the liability clause and explained that the City was already contractually obligated to provide these funds. This is just a re-confirmation of the City's obligation. Council Member Olson asked why this was being done. Atty. Anastasi then reviewed the benefits of the transfer. Council Member Olson asked if the City would save any money. Atty. Anastasi said that this would take the liability from the City and the City would not have to deal with the retirement.

Council Member Baker said that there had been a number of questions that the Council Members had raised in committee and had not been answered. Atty. Anastasi pointed out that the actual transfer of funds was not under the authority of the Council. Mayor Finch said that if the funds were not transferred, the City would have to find the funds elsewhere. Council Member Baker said that he felt out of respect, the actuary should have been present to answer the questions and the material was not presented until later. He said that he wanted to do his due diligence on this issue. Atty. Anastasi said that Council Member Baker had requested copies of the minutes from the Fire Commission and the Pension Board were on file. He then listed the name of the Fire officer who would have those minutes. Atty. Anastasi said that the transfer of the funds was under the authority of the Pension Board. Council Member Baker said that he would vote against this resolution because he was not able to do his due diligence on the issue. He added that he did not want to have any overages passed on to the taxpayers. Mayor Finch said that once an employee retires, the City is responsible. Council President McCarthy pointed out that

the indemnity that was in the resolution was the same that the Council members had from the City. There is nothing new in the resolution.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE QUESTION.**

**** THE MOTION FAILED DUE TO THE LACK OF A SECOND.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 63-12 PROPOSED RESOLUTION CONCERNING BRIDGEPORT FIREFIGHTERS PENSION PLAN B PASSED WITH 15 IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, STAFSTROM, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, OLSON, BRANTLEY, MCCARTHY, AUSTIN, BLUNT, DEPARA, SILVA, AYALA, MARTINEZ, MARELLA, AND PAOLETTO); ONE OPPOSED (BAKER) AND ONE ABSTENTION (LYONS).**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services